

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 7981

EXDIS

T FOR NYE

EA FOR HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: JA US PFOR ERNG PARM
SUBJ: JAPANESE APPROACH TO FORTHCOMING NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS

REF: TOKYO 7686

1. FONOFF SCIENCE DIVDIR OTA AND JAPANESE IAEA PERMREP
YATABE CALLED IN EMBOFFS MAY 31 IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THEIR
DEPARTURE FOR SECOND ROUND OF REPROCESSING NEGOTIATIONS IN
WASHINGTON. WHILE STRESSING THAT CONVERSATION WAS INFORMAL
AND SHOULD NOT BE REFERRED TO DURING WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS,
OTA AND YATABE STATED THAT US SIDE SHOULD BE AWARE OF
CERTAIN ASPECTS OF JAPANESE THINKING PRIOR TO OPENING OF
NEGOTIATIONS.

2. YATABE LED OFF WITH FOLLOWING POINTS:
--GOJ DID NOT DESIRE TO ARGUE BASIC POLICY QUESTIONS OF
MEDIUM AND LONG TERM AT WASHINGTON; THESE WOULD BE DISCUSSED
IN MONTHS TO COME AT SUCH INTERNATIONAL FORA AS LONDON
SUPPLIERS MEETINGS AND INFCEP. REALISTIC OBJECTIVE FOR
COMING NEGOTIATIONS IN WASHINGTON SHOULD BE AGREEMENT
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ON IMMEDIATE ISSUES WHICH WOULD NOT PREJUDICE BASIC LONG-
TERM POLICIES OF EITHER SIDE. YATABE FELT THIS POINT WAS
IMPORTANT AND SHOULD BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BEFORE TALKS
BEGAN.

-- AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, GOJ FELT NEED TO REITERATE
"FOR HOME CONSUMPTION" ITS BASIC POSITION AT BEGINNING

OF NEGOTIATIONS. YATABE ENVISIONED RELATIVELY BRIEFED STATEMENT BY AMB NIIZEKI ON THURSDAY MORNING BEFORE BEGINNING OF CONCRETE DISCUSSIONS. YATABE CONFIRMED THAT THIS STATEMENT WOULD INCLUDE EXPRESSION OF CONCERN OVER DANGERS POSED BY NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION.

--YATABE BELIEVED THAT WASHINGTON NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT PRODUCE TWO SEPARATE DOCUMENTS: JOINT STATEMENT OR COMMUNIQUE AGREED UPON AT HIGH LEVEL AND TO BE MADE PUBLIC AND SECOND, CONFIDENTIAL PAPER SPELLING OUT AGREEMENT OR DISAGREEMENT ON VARIOUS ISSUES WHICH MIGHT SERVE AS BASIS FOR PUBLIC COMMUNIQUE.

-- AS TIME WAS LIMITED, GOJ HOPED THAT US SIDE WOULD TAKE INITIATIVE TO PRESENT DRAFT PROPOSALS EARLY IN NEGOTIATIONS. YATABE REGRETTED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR JAPANESE SIDE TO OFFER ITS OWN WRITTEN PROPOSAL. HE EXPLAINED THAT DESPITE FONOFF EFFORTS, IT HAD NOT BEEN POSSIBLE IN TIME AVAILABLE TO DEVELOP CONSENSUS AMONG CONCERNED GOJ MINISTRIES ON JAPANESE PROPOSAL.

-- YATABE MADE SPECIAL POINT OF EXPLAINING THAT GOJ'S EFFORTS TO CAST NEGOTIATIONS ON "HIGH LEVEL" HAD BEEN FOR DOMESTIC REASONS AND DID NOT IN ANY WAY REFLECT JAPANESE DOUBT ON CREDIBILITY OF DR. NYE AS US NEGOTIATOR. RATHER GOJ HAD FEARED THAT WITH RECENT EXAMPLE A-F MINISTER SUZUKI'S FREQUENT TRAVELS TO MOSCOW FOR FISHERIES TALKS, JAPANESE PUBLIC WOULD EXPECT SIMILAR "HIGH LEVEL" EFFORT AT RESOLUTION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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REPROCESSING PROBLEM. YATABE AND OTA WERE GRATIFIED TO LEARN FROM SCICOUNS UNDER SECRETARY BENSON MIGHT BE PRESENT AT OPENING MEETING.

3. OTA SUPPLEMENTED YATABE'S COMMENTS BY NOTING THAT AS US ATTACHED CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO INFCEP, GOJ WAS PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE FULLY TO THAT PROGRAM. THIS SHOULD BE TAKEN AS INDICATION OF GOJ'S CONCERN OVER NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION.

4. ON QUESTION OF COPROCESSING, OTA STATED THAT GOJ WOULD TRY TO BE AS FLEXIBLE AS POSSIBLE, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT ANY PROPOSAL REQUIRING EXPENSIVE CONVERSION OF TOKAI MURA FACILITY WITH POSSIBLE DELAY OF TWO YEARS WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO GOJ FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS.

5. WHEN QUERIED BY SCICOUNS, OTA AND YATABE ASSERTED THAT ALTHOUGH JAPANESE NEGOTIATORS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO OFFER THEIR OWN PROPOSAL AND WOULD ESSENTIALLY BE IN POSITION

OF "REACTING" TO ANY US PROPOSAL, THERE WOULD BE SOME FLEXIBILITY" IN JAPANESE NEGOTIATING STANCE. THEY WERE QUICK TO DISMISS RECENT MAINICHI ARTICLE WHICH REPORTED GOJ WAS DETERMINED "NOT TO YIELD TO US DEMANDS."

6. IN RELATED SUBJECT, EMBOFFS HEARD MINISTER UNO DELIVER FORMAL SPEECH ON NUCLEAR ISSUE AT LUNCHEON OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CLUB ON MAY 31. UNO REITERATED HIS PREVIOUSLY KNOWN VIEWS, BUT IN MODERATE LANGUAGE. HE DODGED QUESTIONS CONCERNING FORTHCOMING BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, BUT SAID THAT HE PLANNED TO GO TO WASHINGTON BY END OF JUNE AS PART OF NEGOTIATIONS. TEXT OF SPEECH BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT.

7. COMMENT: WE ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT GOJ UNABLE TO COME UP WITH SPECIFIC PROPOSALS TO START NAGOTIATIONS. GIVEN THE DEEP DIVISIONS THAT REMAIN BETWEEN THE MINISTRIES
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INVOLVED, THE LACK OF AN AGREED POSITION IS NOT SURPRISING, DESPITE THE EFFORTS WE MADE TO ENCOURAGE A DECISION. THE LACK OF AN AGREED OPENING POSITION DOES NOT MEAN HOWEVER THAT THE JAPANESE WILL BE INFLEXIBLE TOWARD SPECIFIC PROPOSALS WE MIGHT MAKE. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE RANGE OF THINKING WE DESCRIBED REFTEL IS ACCURATE AND THAT AMERICAN PROPOSALS THAT FALL WITHIN THAT RANGE COULD FORM THE BASIS FOR AN AGREEMENT ON THE IMMEDIATE ISSUES.
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